The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday April* 16. to *Tueſday, April* 19. 1709.

IT is uſual with Perſons, who mount the Stage for the Cure or Information of the Crowd about 'em, to make ſolemn Profeſſions of their being wholly diſintereſted in the Pains they take for the Publick Good. At the ſame Time, thoſe very Men, who make Harangues in Pluſh Doublets, and extol their own Abilities and Generous Inclinations, tear their Lungs in vending a Drug, and ſhow no Act of Bounty, except it be, that they lower a Demand of a Crown to Six, nay, to One Penny. We have a Contempt for ſuch Paultry Barterers, and have therefore all along inform'd the Publick, that we intend to give them our Advices for our own Sakes, and are laboring to make our Lucubrations come to ſome Price in Money, for our more convenient Support in the Service of the Publick. It is certain, that many other Schemes have been propoſed to me; as a Friend offer'd, to ſhow me a Treatiſe he had writ, which he call'd, The Whole Art of Life, or The Introduction to Great Men, illuſtrated in a Pack of Cards. *But being a Novice at all Manner of Play, I declin'd the Offer. Another adviſed me, for want of Money, to ſet up my Coach, and practiſe Phyſick, but having been bred a Scholar, I ſeem'd I ſhould not ſucceed that Way neither; therefore reſolv'd to go on in my preſent Project. But you are to underſtand, that I ſhall not pretend to raiſe a Credit to this Work, upon the Weight of my Political News only, but, as my* Latin *Sentence on the Front hereof informs you, ſhall take any Thing that offers for the Subject of my Diſcourſe. Thoſe New Perſons, as well as New Things, are to come under my Conſideration; as, when a* Toaſt, *or a* Wit, *is firſt pronounc'd ſuch, you ſhall have the freſheſt Advice of their Preferment to that Rank from me, with a Deſcription of the* Beauty's *Manner, and the* Wit's *Style; as alſo, in whoſe Places they are advanc'd. For this Town is never good-natur'd enough to raiſe One Perſon, without depreſſing Another. But it is my Deſign, to avoid ſaying any Thing of any Perſon, which ought juſtly to diſpleaſe; but ſhall endeavour, by the Variety of the Matter and Style, to give Entertainment for Men of Pleaſure, without Offence to thoſe of Buſineſs.*

White's Chocolate-houſe, April 18.

ALL Hearts at preſent pant for two Ladies only, who have for ſome Time engroſs'd the Dominion of the Town. They are indeed both exceeding Charming, but differ very much in their Excellencies. The Beauty of *Clariſſa* is Soft, that of *Chloe* Piercing. When you look at *Clariſſa*, you ſee the moſt exact Harmony of Feature, Complexion, and Shape; you find in *Chloe* nothing extraordinary in any one of thoſe Particulars, but the Whole Woman irreſiſtible. *Clariſſa* looks Languiſhing; *Chloe*, Killing. *Clariſſa* never fails of gaining Admiration; *Chloe*, of moving Deſire. The Gazers at *Clariſſa*, are at firſt unconcern'd, as if they were obſerving a fine Picture. They who behold *Chloe* at the Firſt Glance diſcover Tranſport, as if they met their deareſt Friend. Theſe different Perfections are ſuitably repreſented by the laſt Great Painter *Italy* has ſent us, Mr. *Fervaſe*. *Clariſſa* is, by that Skilful Hand, plac'd in a Manner that looks artleſs, and innocent of the Torments ſhe gives; *Chloe* drawn with a Livelineſs that ſhows ſhe is Conſcious, but not Affected, of her Perfections. *Clariſſa* is a Shepherdeſs; *Chloe*, a Country Girl. I muſt own, the Deſign of *Chloe*'s Picture ſhows, to me, great Maſtery in the Painter; for nothing could be better imagin'd than the Dreſs he has given her, of a Straw-hat and Ribbon, to repreſent that Sort of Beauty which enters the Heart with a certain Familiarity, and cheats it into a Belief, that it has receiv'd a Lover as well as an Object of Love. The Force of their different Beauties is ſeen alſo in the Effects it makes on their Lovers. The Admirers of *Chloe* are eternally Gay and Well-pleas'd: Thoſe of *Clariſſa* Melancholy and Thoughtful. And as this Paſſion always changes the natural Man into a quite different Creature from what he was before, the Love of *Chloe* makes Coxcombs; that of *Clariſſa*, Madmen. There were of each Kind juſt now here. Here is One that Whiſtles, Laughs, Sings, and Cuts Capers, for Love of *Chloe*. Another has juſt now writ Three Lines to *Clariſſa*, then taken a Turn in the Garden, then came back again, then tore his Fragment, then call'd for ſome Chocolate, then went away without it.

Chloe has ſo many Admirers in the Room at preſent, that there is too much Noiſe to proceed in my Narration: So that the Progreſs of the Loves of *Clariſſa* and *Chloe*, together with the Bottles that are drank each Night for the One, and the many Sighs which are utter'd, and Songs written, on the Other, muſt be our Subject on future Occaſion.

Will's Coffee-houſe, April 18.

Letters from the *Hay-market* inform us, That on *Saturday* Night laſt the Opera of *Pyrrhus* and *Demetrius* was perform'd with great Applauſe. This Intel-

telligence is not very acceptable to us Friends of the Theatre; for the Stage being an Entertainment of the Reason and all our Faculties, this Way of being pleas'd with the Suspence of 'em for Three Hours together, and being given up to the shallow Satisfaction of the Eyes and Ears only, seems to arise rather from the Degeneracy of our Understanding, than an Improvement of our Diversions. That the Understanding has no Part in the Pleasure, is evident from what these Letters very positively assert, to wit, That a great Part of the Performance was done in *Italian*: And a Great Critick fell into Fits in the Gallery, at seeing not only Time and Place, but Languages and Nations confus'd, in the most incorrigible Manner. His Spleen is so extreamly moved on this Occasion, that he is going to publish another Treatise against the Introduction of Opera's, which, he thinks, has already inclin'd us to Thoughts of Peace, and if tolerated, must infallibly dispirit us from carrying on the War. He has communicated his Scheme to the whole Room, and declared in what Manner Things of this Kind were first introduc'd. He has upon this Occasion consider'd the Nature of Sounds in general, and made a very elaborate Digression upon the *London Cries*, wherein he has shown from Reason and Philosophy, why Oysters are cry'd, Cardmatches sung, and Turneps and all other Vegetables neither cry'd, sung, nor said; but sold, with an Accent and Tone neither natural to Man or Beast. This Piece seems to be stol'n from the Model of that excellent Discourse of Mrs. *Manly* the School-Mistriss, concerning Samplers. Advices from the upper End of *Piccadilly* say, that *May-Fair* is utterly abolish'd; and we hear, Mr. *Pinkethman* has remov'd his Ingenious Company of Strollers to *Greenwich*: But other Letters from *Deptford* say, the Company is only making thither, and not yet settled; but that several Heathen Gods and Goddesses, which are to descend in Machines, landed at the *King's-Head-Stairs* last Saturday. *Venus* and *Cupid* went on Foot from thence to *Greenwich*; *Mars* got drunk in the Town, and broke his Landlord's Head; for which he sat in the Stocks the whole Evening; but Mr. *Pinkethman* giving Security that he should do nothing this ensuing Summer, he was set at Liberty. The most Melancholy Part of all, was, that *Diana* was taken in the Act of Fornication with a Boat-man, and committed by Justice *Wrathful*, which has, it seems, put a Stop to the Diversions of the Theatre of *Black-Heath*. But there goes down another *Diana* and a *Patient Grissel* next Tide from *Billingsgate*. It is credibly reported, that Mr. *D*-----*y* has agreed with Mr. *Pinkethman* to have his Play acted before that Audience, assoon as it has had its first Sixteen Days Run in *Drury-Lane*.

St. James's Coffee-house, April 18.

They write from *Saxony* of the 13th Instant, *N. S.* That the Grand General of the Crown of *Poland* was so far from entring into a Treaty with King *Staniflaus*, that he had written Circular Letters, wherein he exhorted the Palatinates to joyn against him; declaring, that this was the most favourable Conjuncture for asserting their Liberty.

Letters from the *Hague* of the 23d Instant, *N. S.* say, they have Advices from *Vienna*, which import, that his Electoral Highness of *Hanover* had signified to the Imperial Court, that he did not intend to put himself at the Head of the Troops of the Empire, except more effectual Measures were taken for acting vigorously against the Enemy the ensuing Campaign. Upon this Representation, the Emperor has giv'n Orders to several Regiments to march towards the *Rhine*, and dispatch'd Expresses to the respective Princes of the Empire to desire an Augmentation of their Forces.

These Letters add, that an Express arriv'd at the *Hague* on the 20th Instant, with Advice, that the Enemy having made a Detachment from *Tournay* of 1500 Horse, each Trooper carrying a Foot Soldier behind him, in order to surprize the Garison of *Alost*; the Allies, upon Notice of their March, sent out a strong Body of Troops from *Ghent*, which engag'd the Enemy at *Asche*, and took 200 of them Prisoners, obliging the rest to retire without making any further Attempt. On the 22d in the Morning, a Fleet of Merchant Ships coming from *Scotland*, were attack'd by Six *French* Privateers, at the Entrance of the *Meuse*. We have yet no certain Advice of the Event: But Letters from *Rotterdam* say, that a *Dutch* Man of War of Forty Guns, which was Convoy to the said Fleet, was taken, as were also Eighteen of the Merchants. The *Swiss* Troops, in the Service of the States, have compleated the Augmentation of their respective Companies. Those of *Wirtemberg* and *Prussia* are expected on the Frontiers within few Days; and the Auxiliaries from *Saxony*, as also a Battalion of *Holstein*, and another of *Wolfenbuttle*, are advancing thither with all Expedition. On the 21st Instant, the Deputies of the States had a Conference near *Woerden* with the President *Rouille*; but the Matter which was therein debated is not made publick. His Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* continue at the *Hague*.

From my own Apartment, April 18.

I have lately been very studious for Intelligence, and have just now, by my Astrological Flying Post, receiv'd a Packet from *Felicia*, an Island in *America*, with an Account that gives me great Satisfaction; and lets me understand, that the Island was never in greater Prosperity, or the Administration in so good Hands, since the Death of their late Valiant King. These Letters import, That the Chief Minister has enter'd into a firm League with the ablest and best Men of the Nation, to carry on the Cause of Liberty, to the Encouragement of Religion, Virtue, and Honour. Those Persons at the Helm are so useful, and in themselves of such Weight, that their strict Alliance must needs tend to the Universal Prosperity of the People. *Camillo*, it seems, presides over the Deliberations of State; and is so highly valued by all Men for his singular Probity, Courage, Affability, and Love of Mankind, that his being plac'd in that Station has dissipated the Fears of that People, who of all the World are the most jealous of their Liberty and Happiness. The next Member of their Society is *Horatio*, who makes all the Publick Dispatches. This Minister is Master of all the Languages in Use to great Perfection: He is held in the highest Veneration imaginable for a severe Honesty and Love of his Country: He lives in a Court, unsullied with any of its Artifices, the Refuge of the Oppress'd, and Terrour of Oppressors. *Martio* has join'd himself to this Council; a Man of most undaunted Resolution and great Knowledge in Maritime Affairs; Famous for destroying the Navy of the *Franks*, and singularly happy in one Particular, that he never prefer'd a Man who has not prov'd remarkably serviceable to his Country. *Philander* is not to be forgotten; a Nobleman who has the most refin'd Taste of the true Pleasures and Elegance of Life, joyn'd to an indefatigable Industry in Business. A Man Eloquent in Assemblies, Agreeable in Conversation, and Dextrous in all Manner of Publick Negotiations. These Letters add, That *Verono*, who is also of this Council, has lately set Sail to his Government of *Patricia*, with Design to confirm the Affections of the People in the Interests of his Queen. This Minister is Master of great Abilities, and is as industrious and restless for the Preservation of the Liberties of the People, as the greatest Enemy can be to subvert 'em. The Influence of these Personages, who are Men of such distinguish'd Parts and Virtues, makes the People enjoy the utmost Tranquillity in the Midst of a War, and gives 'em undoubted Hopes of a secure Peace from their Vigilance and Integrity.

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LONDON: Printed for the Author, 1709.